

Message Text

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13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 EUR-25

RSR-01 L-03 /109 W

----- 062926

R 120920 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4928

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: DPM THREATENS BAN FOREIGN PRESS

1. IN UNUSUAL RADIO ADDRESS SWAZILAND BROADCASTING EVENING MAY 11, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZONKE KHUMALO THREATENED TO "CLOSE THE GATES" FOR THOSE JOURNALS CARRYING "ANTI- SWAZILAND PROPAGANDA." ADDRESS WAS OSTENSIBLY DEFENSE HIS DEPARTMENT INFORMATION WHICH CRITICIZED IN EDITORIAL TIMES OF SWAZILAND MAY 4 FOR INEFFICIENCY. TIMES CRITICISM DIRECTED PRIMARLY TO POINT THAT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT NOT MEETING CHALLENGE TO MAINTAIN SWAZILAND IMAGE ABROAD IN WAKE ABOLITION CONSITUTION.

2. KHUMALO ATTEMPTED REFUTE CRITICISM WITH NARRATION EVENTS BEFORE AND AFTER APRIL 12. DPM STATED HE HAD FOREIGN JOURNALISTS INVITED APRIL 9 FOR LOBAMBA MEETING AND THAT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER HAD ALWAYS BEEN AVAILABLE TO FOREIGN
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AND OTHER JOURNALISTS. HE CITED TIMES OF SWAZILAND LACK
OF REPORTORIAL STAFF (TIMES USES SBS RELEASES AND PHOTOGRAPHS)
AS PROOF THAT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
EFFICIENT. HE THEN SAID THERE SOME JOURNALISTS WHO AVOIDED
OFFICIAL SOURCES FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO THEMSELVES.
DPM ADVISED TIMES EDITOR TO " MIND HIS P' S AND Q' S", SPECIFICALLY
DENIED RAND DAILY MAIL ARTICLE MAY 9 THAT LESOTHO PRESSURE
HAD CAUSED EXPULSION FRED J ROACH AND WARNED
THAT SWAZILAND WOULD NOT TOLERATE JOURNALISTS OR JOURNALS
PRODUCING FALSE OR MISLEADING PROPAGANDA.
SPICER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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